

REMARKS

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Advisory Action of September 7, 2005.

Reconsideration of the Application is requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 2-16 remain in this application.

Claims 1 and 17 are cancelled, without prejudice.

Claims 2, 5-7, and 9 are amended.

The Office Action

In the Office Action of June 28, 2005, claims 10, 15, and 16 were allowed.

Claims 2-4 were objected to, but considered to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 5, and 17 were rejected under 35 USC§103(a) as being unpatentable over Casaldi, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,779,578) in view of Murooka, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,467,884).

Claims 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Casaldi, et al. in view of Murooka, et al. and further in view of Kerr, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,640,866).

For the reasons outlined below, it is submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 and 17 are now cancelled. Claim 2, which was considered to contain allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 2 and claims 3-9 dependent therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

In the Advisory Action of September 7, 2005, the Examiner asserted that the request for reconsideration does not place the application in condition for allowance "because: the Examiner believes he has provided valid motivation to combine the teachings of the references of Casaldi et al, Murooka et al, and Kerr, et al. The examiner also believes that such a combination is operative and teaches applicant's claimed invention." Applicant does not concede the propriety of the Examiner's

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rejections and reserves the right to present the rejected claims in a further application.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 2-16) are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is hereby authorized to call the undersigned, at Telephone Number (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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